

La Tomatina

The World's biggest food fight – an hour of tomato slinging

Background information

This is basically a huge tomato battle where more than 125,000 tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets. People attend from all over the world.

This is a festival held on the last Wednesday of August every year in the town of Buñol in the Valencia region of Spain.

The origin of this fiesta is unknown, but one of the most popular theories is that angry townspeople attacked the city councilmen with tomatoes during a town celebration in 1945. People enjoyed this so much that it has become a tradition with as many as 40,000 tourists flocking to this event.



The week long fiesta has music, dancing, parades and fireworks. On the night before the tomato fight people compete in a paella cooking contest. Paella is a very famous Spanish dish consisting of rice and meat, seafood or vegetables. It is made in a wide, shallow dish. Saffron is usually cooked with the rice to make the dish yellow in appearance.

La Tomatina begins at around 10am. Water cannons signal the start of the battle which lasts one hour. Water cannons are also fired to signal the end of the battle. Tomatoes must be squished a little beforehand, for safety reasons, and buildings and shops must be covered in huge plastic covers for protection.

Teaching activities

- ◆ Draw a picture of *La Tomatina*.
- ◆ Draw and label the ingredients for paella. You could label the ingredients in English, or use a dictionary to help you label them in Spanish.
- ◆ You could create some Maths word problems based on quantities using a *La Tomatina* theme.
- ◆ You could write a newspaper report of the event.
- ◆ You could act out a news report and interview someone who took part.
- ◆ You could write a persuasive letter to your headteacher persuading him / her to allow you to re-enact *La Tomatina* in your playground!
- ◆ You could write an acrostic poem using *La Tomatina*.

La Tomatina



Nombre:

Fecha:

I know about the festival, *La Tomatina*.

Imagine that you are at *La Tomatina*. Draw a picture of what is happening. Include speech and thought bubbles from some of the characters.

Extension activity

Use the Internet to find out about the town of Buñol.